

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

- 1 1. A method for distributing streaming media through a network of
2 computers in a secured manner to a client device, the method comprising:
 - 3 forming a secured media object and a residual mask for the secured media
 - 4 object, the secured media object being disabled;
 - 5 replicating the secured media object into a plurality of secured media object
 - 6 copies 1 through N, each of the secured media object copies representing the secured media
 - 7 object, where N represents an integer greater than 1;
 - 8 transferring the secured media object copies 1 through N into respective
 - 9 distribution servers 1 through N through a network;
 - 10 storing the secured media object copies 1 through N in memories of the
 - 11 respective distribution servers 1 through N;
 - 12 scheduling delivery based upon a selected time and date of one of the secured
 - 13 media object copies at one of the distribution servers to a client device through the network;
 - 14 and
 - 15 transferring the selected secured media object copy from the selected
 - 16 distribution server at the selected delivery time and date through the network.
- 1 2. The method of claim 1 wherein the scheduling delivery is provided by
2 a management sever coupled to the network.
- 1 3. The method of claim 2 wherein the network comprises a cable
2 television network or a network of computers.
- 1 4. The method of claim 1 further comprising associating the selected
2 secured media object copy with a residual file to form an unsecured media object copy.
- 1 5. The method of claim 4 outputting the unsecured media object copy on
2 a display of the client device.
- 1 6. The method of claim 4 wherein the associating is provided at the client
2 device.

1 7. The method of claim 1 wherein the replicating is provided at the
2 management server.

1 8. The method of claim 1 wherein the secured media object comprises an
2 ID number.

1 9. The method of claim 1 wherein the network of computers is the
2 Internet.

1 10. The method of claim 1 wherein the client device is selected from a
2 television, a computer, a personal digital assistant, a network computer, and a workstation.

1 11. A system for providing security to compressed digital media, the
2 system including a medium for computer codes, the codes include at least:
3 a code directed to forming a secured media object and a residual mask for the
4 secured media object, the secured media object being disabled;

5 a code directed to replicating the secured media object into a plurality of
6 secured media object copies 1 through N, each of the secured media object copies
7 representing the secured media object, where N represents an integer greater than 1;

8 a code directed to transferring the secured media object copies 1 through N
9 into respective distribution servers 1 through N through a network;

10 a code directed to storing the secured media object copies 1 through N in
11 memories of the respective distribution servers 1 through N;

12 a code directed to scheduling delivery based upon a selected time and date of
13 one of the secured media object copies at one of the distribution servers to a client device
14 through the network; and

15 a code directed to transferring the selected secured media object copy from the
16 selected distribution server at the selected delivery time and date through the network.

1 12. The system of claim 11 wherein the computer codes are provided on a
2 single memory or a distributed memory.